

Funding to Support the Establishment of Innovation Schools

The Innovation School model is cost-neutral with regard to the longer-term operation of schools; however, to support initial planning activities and the successful implementation of creative and bold strategies for one year, the Executive Office of Education (EOE) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) will award planning and implementation grants to eligible applicants and partner districts.

Two primary types of funding, \$1.5 million from Massachusetts' Race to the Top (RTTT) award and \$650,000 from the EOE through a grant provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, are available to support the establishment of Innovation Schools in communities across Massachusetts. This fact sheet provides information about the processes by which planning and implementation grants will be awarded to eligible recipients.

Innovation Schools Planning Grants

A total of \$1.5 million in RTTT funding will be awarded to eligible applicants and participating districts (those that submitted a Memorandum of Understanding to ESE to indicate their commitment to implementing RTTT initiatives) to support the establishment of Innovation Schools in September 2011 and September 2012. Planning and implementation grants will be awarded as follows.

Type of Award and Eligibility	Funding Priorities	Amount of Award	Deadlines
Planning Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants and RTTT participating districts that have successfully completed the first step of the Innovation School authorization process, the approval of an initial prospectus.	Priority will be given to proposals to establish Innovation Schools in Level 3 and 4 districts and STEM-focused Innovation Schools.	Up to \$15,000 per school Applicants may request additional funding of up to \$5,000 based on the size of the proposed Innovation School and the scope of the initiatives.	Round 1: February 4, 2011 Round 2: October 15, 2011
Implementation Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants and RTTT participating districts that have successfully completed the last step of the authorization process, the establishment of the Innovation School by the local school committee.	Priority will be given to proposals to operate Innovation Schools in Level 3 and 4 districts and STEM-focused Innovation Schools.	\$50,000 – \$75,000 per school based on the size of the school and the scope of the initiatives	Round 1: June 30, 2011 Round 2: June 30, 2012

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the first round of planning grants has been posted at the following website: <http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/Grants/grants11/rfp/202.html>, and the RFP for the first round of implementation grants will be issued during the spring of 2011.

Next Generation Learning Models Planning Grants

The EOE will award a total of \$600,000 to eligible applicants and any school district in Massachusetts to support the establishment of Innovation Schools in September 2011 (the remaining \$50,000 will be used to provide technical assistance to school, district, and community teams).

Innovation Schools that are established with this funding must implement Next Generation Learning Models which are characterized by the following: 1) greater flexibility with regard to instruction, the allocation of fiscal and human resources, and the use of instructional time; 2) differentiated content and multiple modes of instruction to boost student achievement; 3) real-time and ongoing assessment of each student's learning needs and their progress; 4) opportunities for teachers and school leaders to take on different instructional and leadership roles; and 5) the inventive use of technology in classrooms, schools, and districts. Next Generation Learning Models also emphasize adding value at all levels of the education system and are directly aligned with the core principles of the Innovation Schools initiative. Planning and implementation grants will be awarded as follows.

Type of Award and Eligibility	Funding Priorities	Amount of Award	Deadline
Planning Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants and partner districts that have successfully completed the first step of the Innovation School authorization process, the approval of an initial prospectus.	Priority will be given to proposals to establish Innovation Schools in Level 3 and 4 districts.	Up to \$15,000 per school Applicants may request additional funding of up to \$5,000 based on the size of the proposed Innovation School and the scope of the initiatives.	February 4, 2011
Implementation Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants and any partner districts that have successfully completed the last step of the authorization process, the establishment of the Innovation School by the local school committee.	Priority will be given to proposals to operate Innovation Schools in Level 3 and 4 districts.	\$50,000 – \$75,000 per school based on the size of the school and the scope of the initiatives	June 30, 2011

Additional information about Next Generation Learning Models is available at www.mass.gov/edu/innovationschools, and the RFP for these planning grants has been posted at the following website: <http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/Grants/grants11/rfp/154.html>. The RFP for the implementation grants will be issued during the spring of 2011.

Note: eligible applicants and districts may not apply for both types of funding for the same school.

Additional Information

Guidance and informational documents about the Innovation Schools initiative are available at the following website: www.mass.gov/edu/innovationschools. For additional information about the planning and implementation grants, please contact Saeyun Lee (saeyun.lee@state.ma.us) or Nick Martinelli (nicholas.martinelli@state.ma.us) at the EOE.